

Marshfield Energy and Climate Change Committee
Plainfield Energy Group
January 11th, 2016

Attendees: Anne Miller, Lawrence Black, Joel Trupin, Nick Seifert, Michael Horowitz, Rich Phillips, John Morris, Bob Atchison, Ed Hutchinson

Convene: 6:40 PM

Adjourn: PM

Draft agenda for January meeting:

- Standard committee items
 - Select a facilitator
 - Public comments
 - Review and approve minutes
 - Modify or add agenda items
 - Create draft agenda for next meeting
- Reports on projects
 - Digest of Google Groups items (Anne)
 - Update on community transportation grant
 - Brainstorm feedback from other committees
 - Dan's speaker
 - Michael's distribution of items and any Twinfield progress
 - Weatherization items?
 - VECAN meeting comments
- Plainfield update

Standard committee business

- Select a facilitator: Michael Horowitz selected
- Agenda additions:
 - Public Comments: Rich Phillips has agenda items - 10 minutes
 - Lawrence has a 1 minute comment
 - Anne has additional material for the petition discussion
 - Michael has 1 minute comment about talking to Charlie Wanza
 - Tabled discussion of Dan's speaker, as he is not in attendance
- Added times to agenda items

Public comment:

- Rich Phillips comments:
 - Rich discussed that SunCommon had contacted him looking for information on potential sites for a group solar site.
 - Rich is bringing this to the committee out of respect for others' interest, and ideas.
 - Michael expressed his opinion that this seems appropriate as a private meeting with SunCommon and Rich, no committee involvement. He offered thoughts on other installers doing work in the area.
 - General discussion about other solar projects and committee awareness about those projects.
 - Someone commented that the town should be notified of any large solar projects, or may be required to provide permits for that.

- Michael commented that there are numerous other groups around, including some that have capacity for purchase available now, and that these groups' structure and organization may be different or interesting.
- Bob mentioned a recent event the "Central Vermont Community Solar Forum"
- Michael suggested the energy committee organize an event presenting multiple suppliers of group solar.
- Michael and Bob to follow up with this.

Agenda:

- Review and approve minutes from past meetings
 - Nick made a motion to approve the November and December minutes
 - Seconded
 - Voted to pass
- Petition discussion
 - Michael asked how many signatures to date
 - Anne believes the count is above the minimum required of 53.5
 - Anne giving petitions to Rich to submit to Bobbi / town clerk
 - Anne expressed a thought that if the petition passes the Marshfield energy committee should have ideas for what to do about it.
 - Lawrence mentioned that he will be proposing an amendment to the petition to remove language about requiring legal actions.
 - Further discussion from other attendees of opinions about legal requirements vs. persuading vs. helping make choices, etc.
 - Comments about examining town plan for language about climate change action to see what the town has already adopted/suggested
- Lawrence mentioned that he will be retiring from the Energy committee at the end of the session.
- Discussion of Google groups content
 - Anne mentioned the SunCommon discussion, an announcement about federal funding for efficiency, a PSB solicitation of comments on net metering.
 - Further discussion of the PSB net metering comment period
 - Comments on the PSB solicitation of comments are due by 1/13. The email to submit comments is in the Google group email.
 - Link to submit a comment:
 - <http://join.vnrc.org/page.redir?target=http%3a%2f%2fpsb.vermont.gov%2fdocketsandprojects%2fpublic-comment&srcid=2879&srctid=1&erid=787042&trid=d896f866-5b12-4d60-8703-172a4bc753fb>
- Twinfield work
 - Michael discussed that he reached out to Charlie Wanza about Twinfield but they did not yet connect.
- Michael's distribution of interesting content:
 - Michael discussed his role as a point of contact for distributing interesting items to the group.
 - Nick suggested contacting John to get his name as the point of contact on the website. Also to email VECAN or others who he is interested in getting communications from.
- Brainstorm feedback
 - Nick to follow up with the Library Board about this.
 - Nick to follow up with the Planning Commission about this.
 - Bob mentioned that the town meeting petition was an outcome of the Brainstorm.
 - Anne mentioned various committees sponsoring Sue Morris to discuss climate change and impacts.
- Weatherization

- Discussion about federal funding for efficiency given to VT of \$46 million. Administered by VEIC and Efficiency VT. More information needed here.
- Nick to reach out to Efficiency VT to find out about this rollout, and other current incentives.
 - Bob suggested Paul Markowitz
- VECAN
 - Bob to share some items with John to post on the website.
 - Michael went to a solar presentation and discussed a particular project that was presented. The project provided all of their legal agreements and other documents from the process. He also attended a workshop on whole community net zero and other community based projects.
 - Michael discussed ideas for having a clearinghouse of information about solar items, such as group net metering agreements, group solar projects going on, etc.
 - Anne attended the legislative workshop. This discussed what legislation is coming along this year. One major bill is to increase the net metering cap and eligibility to extension of ITC/PTC federal tax credits. Also attended a workshop about the carbon tax. It sounds like this will not go to vote this legislative year.
 - Bob had some comments about organizations working to get grassroots support when this does go to the legislature.
- Plainfield Updates
 - Having street light installation discussions with GMP.
 - Charging station parts all in hand, looking for a date to finish wiring.
 - Budget being submitted with energy audit and a couple other items.
 - The new array has produced ~2500kWh to date.
- Executive discussion

Agenda for next meeting:

- Next meeting planned for February 1st, at 7pm
- Standard committee items
 - Select a facilitator
 - Public comments
 - Review and approve minutes
 - Modify or add agenda items and add times
 - Create draft agenda for next meeting
- Reports on projects
 - Discussion about thoughts on what to do if the petitioned item passes, and what can be done? 15-20 min
 - Digest of Google Groups items (Anne)
 - Brainstorm feedback from other committees
 - Dan's speaker
 - Michael's distribution of items and any Twinfield progress
 - Weatherization items
- Plainfield update